

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

S/S-O: L. MATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 243373

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEET THE PRESS INTERVIEW -- MILITARY
ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY-- DELIVER OPENING OP BUSINESS
SUNDAY MORNING

1. IN MY INTERVIEW WITH MEET THE PRESS TAPED TODAY
(OCTOBER 11) FOR TELECAST OCTOBER 12, FOLLOWING EXCHANGE
TOOK PLACE ON POSSIBILITY OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE
TO EGYPT:

QUOTE:

MR. VALERIANI: MR. SECRETARY, EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT
HAS SAID THAT HE WILL ASK FOR AMERICAN MILITARY AID WHEN
HE COMES TO WASHINGTON LATER THIS MONTH. WHAT WILL BE
THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: PRESIDENT SADAT HAS INDICATED TO
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MANY VISITORS THAT HE WOULD ASK FOR MILITARY AID, HAVING

INTERRUPTED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER IN FACT HE WILL HAVE A SPECIFIC SHOPPING LIST OR WILL ASK FOR IT IN GENERAL.

I DON'T THINK WE WILL BE PREPARED AT THIS MOMENT TO MAKE ANY SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS OF MILITARY AID, BUT WE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM WITH HIM IN GENERAL TERMS.

MR. VALERIANI: HAVE YOU GIVEN HIM ANY ASSURANCES THAT YOU WILL GIVE SUCH A REQUEST SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION OR SERIOUS CONSIDERATION?

SECRETARY KISSINGER: WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT WITH HIM BUT AT THIS TIME NOT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC SHOPPING LISTS.

UNQUOTE.

2. DRAWING ON ABOVE IN AS MUCH DETAIL AS YOU THINK NECESSARY, YOU SHOULD FIND WAY WITHOUT OVEREMPHASIZING IT TO LET FAHMY KNOW OF EXCHANGE IN ADVANCE SO REPORTS OF IT WILL NOT CATCH HIM OFF GUARD. ALTHOUGH WE ARE AWARE OF EGYPTIAN EXPECTATIONS IN THIS AREA, POSITION TAKEN IN INTERVIEW IS CONSISTENT WITH WHAT I INSTRUCTED YOU TO TELL FAHMY ON THIS SUBJECT. IT IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN GET INTO THIS SUBJECT. KISSINGER

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